

## **GHA Committee Meeting Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November - Junior Clubs report.**

The Festivals have continued this season with all the various categories of U8s Mixed, U10 Girls and Boys, U12 Girls and Boys and U12 A Teams Girls and Boys. Unfortunately numbers have been a little down on last year across all gender and age groups with about a 15% reduction; the only exception being the A Teams events where numbers are actually slightly up. Westbury have not been to so many events and Marlborough have stopped coming. On a more positive note the smaller Clubs have been active and looking at how to cooperate to send combined teams.

There have been 2 incidents to date of concern. In one an U10 boy was struck by a car at Dean Close, fortunately he did not suffer any serious injury as it was more the case that he ran into the car rather than vice versa. Investigations showed the issue arose because the parent had let him out of their car in the access road beside the pitches. Due process was followed and the insurers were informed and witness and other statements were collected. The second incident was also at Dean Close, but this time was a playing injury. An U12 boy was struck by a stick and had to go to A&E for treatment, but was subsequently fine.

A positive to take from both incidents was that the casualties were attended to by doctors who were there as parents, which rather demonstrates the demographic of the players involved in hockey. Also following the car incident at Dean Close an evening was organized to talk to the Clubs about Safety in general, attendance was reasonable with 6 Clubs represented. The various actions arising have been addressed apart from producing a video on safety, but for that we need to find a media studies student!

There remain following this weekend 3 further dates before Christmas at which point invoices for the first half of the season will be sent out on the basis of keeping the charges the same as last season. Once this has been done an assessment of the costs and income will be made.

In2Hockey competition invitations for entries will be sent out to GHA Clubs at the beginning of December.

Ian Harvey

GHA Junior Hockey Festivals Organiser